REMARKS

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement stating that the application allegedly contains claims that are directed to the following patentably distinct inventions:

Group I (claims 1 - 60) - drawn to computational methods for predicting intramolecular and intermolecular biopolymer interactions, classified in class 702, subclass 19;

Group II (claims 61 and 62) - drawn to a sequence alignment method for aligning biopolymer sequences, classified in class 702, subclass 20.

The Examiner alleges that Group I and II are distinct because Group I is allegedly drawn to computational methods and procedural steps for predicting intramolecular biopolymer interactions. The Examiner alleges that Group II does not read on any limitations for predicting molecular interaction.

The Examiner has also required a species election and alleges that Group I contains the following patentably distinct species corresponding to claims 1, 22, 30 and 51:

(A)   a method comprising a screening process further comprising a standardization process, a threshold determination process, a chain elimination process;

(B)   a method comprising subjecting genomic/biopolymer sequence data to an alignment process, subjecting sequence alignment data to a combinatorial matching process, preparing a set of actual frequency tables, and subjecting the actual frequency tables to a scoring process,

(C)   a method comprising a screening process further comprising a standardization process, a threshold determination process, and a chain elimination process in combination with

subjecting genomic/biopolymer sequence data to an alignment process, subjecting sequence alignment data to a combinatorial matching process, preparing a set of actual frequency tables, and subjecting the actual frequency tables to a scoring process,

(D)   a method comprising subjecting genomic/biopolymer sequence data to a first alignment process, subjecting the first set of sequence alignment data to a combinatorial matching process, preparing a set of actual frequency tables, subjecting the actual frequency tables to a scoring process, and further subjecting the actual frequency tables corresponding to the first set of association information to a misalignment process, using misaligned sequence information to realign sequences, or
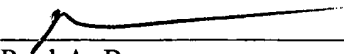
(E)   a method comprising unspecified processes and steps with respect to those listed above.

Applicant provisionally elects Group I corresponding to claims 1-60 and species C corresponding to Claims 30-50, as required under 37 C.F.R. 1.143, without prejudice to the prosecution of the subject matter of non-elected claims in other patent applications.

It is believed that no additional fee is required in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-4377.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Prompt reconsideration and allowance are therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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